

## What is the Sustainable Progress Index?

The SDGs have become an essential part of scoring economic, social and environmental progress. The Sustainable Progress Index 2019 is the third in a series of reports that examines Ireland's performance in the context of its peers in the EU. The main aim of our analyses is to complement the work being done by others by specifically monitoring Ireland's progress.



It is also important to compare Ireland to its peers. Hence, the focus, as in previous reports, is the EU15 countries. Comparing relative performance among countries from a similar regional or income group is valuable. Variations observed in small groups of similar regions should encourage policymakers to better understand reasons for divergence and design strategies for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

## Key findings – how is Ireland doing overall?

The SDGs provide an ambitious, comprehensive plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. The goal of the SDGs is to change the perspective of public policy and we have shown the scale of the challenge facing Ireland under the headings of economy, society and environment. Table 1 provides a picture of how Ireland ranks on each SDG in each of the 3 dimensions; economy, society and environment.

<b>Table 1: Ireland's rank by Dimension and by SDG</b>		
<b>Ireland Overall Rank on the SDGs</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Economy</b>		<b>11</b>
SDG 8:	Good Jobs and Economic Growth	9
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	11
<b>Society</b>		<b>10</b>
SDG 1	No Poverty	7
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	10
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being	9
SDG 4	Quality Education	2
SDG 5	Gender Equality	11
SDG 10	Reduced Inequality	12
SDG 16	Peace and Justice	4
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	15
<b>Environment</b>		<b>13</b>
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	5
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	12
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	8
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	14
SDG 13	Climate Action	10
SDG 14	Life Below Water	9
SDG 15	Life on Land	8

### Key findings – how is Ireland doing in comparison with EU 15?

The composite Sustainable Progress Index (SPI) is presented in Table 1. It provides a simple report card to track Ireland's overall performance on the SDGs compared to its EU peers: countries that have experienced similar levels of development. Sweden, Finland and Denmark top the rankings. **Ireland's overall ranking is 11.**

Table 2: The Sustainable Progress Index Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	71.45	1
Denmark	66.60	2
Finland	62.11	3
Netherlands	57.37	4
Austria	57.14	5
Germany	53.42	6
United Kingdom	50.71	7
Belgium	49.39	8
France	48.32	9
Luxembourg	46.06	10
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>45.91</b>	<b>11</b>
Portugal	38.38	12
Italy	37.66	13
Spain	37.15	14
Greece	28.12	15

**Strengths:** Ireland is in the top third for 3 SDGs. Our analysis suggests that Ireland does well on SDGs relating to **Quality Education** (SDG 4); **Peace and Justice** (SDG 16) and **Clean Water and Sanitation** (SDG6). Ireland has a good reputation internationally for quality education, and skilled graduates are in high demand. Ireland is also regarded as a relatively safe place to live with lower homicides and crime rates relative to other countries.

**Weaknesses:** 4 SDGs are in the bottom third: **Partnerships for the Goals**, (SDG 17); **Affordable and Clean Energy** (SDG 7); **Reduced Inequality** (SDG 10); and **Responsible Consumption and Production** (SDG 12). Significant challenges lay ahead if Ireland is to achieve its objectives on these goals.

**In the Middle:** 10 SDGs are in the middle of the rankings, implying there is still scope for improvement. Going forward, it is important to continue to monitor all relevant indicators under each to track progress towards goals.

### How should Ireland measure progress?

#### Key findings from the Sustainable Progress Index 2019

Placing a primary focus on economic growth leads to policies that only promote one aspect of what can be called sustainable social progress, and either ignores or harms other aspects. We are not arguing against prosperity. Rather, we are arguing for a view of prosperity that is inclusive of all and is socially and environmentally sustainable. Driving up GDP leads to a false prosperity; temporary in its benefits, lasting in its costs.

Directly focusing on social and environmental goals, rather than waiting for economic growth to trickle down and produce desirable outcomes, is what underpins the SDGs. It is also what makes them revolutionary. The SDGs are a rejection of the paradigm of one way causality of economic growth leading to everything else. Clearly the economy and economic growth are important, but they exist in a context, and economic growth is as much an effect of social progress as a potential contributor to social progress.

We are at a time when we can identify and measure what promotes integral human development, for individual and communities. Promoting the development of the whole person and all people leads to a healthier and more stable economy; it promotes an economy which puts people first. We are also at a stage in human history where promoting an economic growth model based on private profits and ignoring the environmental costs of human actions can no longer be accepted.

A disposable society that uses up and discards people and resources with the single goal of ensuring the continuation of the process of capital accumulation is not sustainable, socially or environmentally. The world needs a new model based on a broader understanding of what it means to be human and how humans relate to one another and to their common home. We hope that our report demonstrates that policy insights can be learned by exploring a wider number of indicators.

### Recommendations from the report

Our message is that the SDGs are not just another list of suggestions for poor countries; they can be a tool for all countries, informing decision making and public policy. Our efforts over the years have always been to push this conversation forward. We don't believe there is a single policy solution to solve every problem; in fact we doubt one exists. But the analysis in this report suggests that Ireland can improve its performance in specific areas: we can learn from the other countries.

Some countries have discovered how to pursue growth while also reducing the impact on the environment. Others can provide higher levels of public services. Of course, countries can also learn from what Ireland does well. There are no natural advantages in promoting social well-being; it is a matter of social choices.

Finally we outline some policy considerations for Ireland arising from this report.

### Policy Considerations for Ireland

1. **Measuring progress by GDP** and other traditional measures is seriously problematic.
2. If a **sustainable environment** is to be developed, Ireland's share of renewable energy and Co2 emissions are a challenge – far greater action is required.
3. Economic growth alone will not solve the problem of **poverty**.
4. Ireland's performance on **gender equality** is well below the EU average; eliminating the gender pay gap should be a priority.
5. Balance is required in **regional development**.
6. Ireland's performance on **education** is good, but there is an issue with those not in education, employment or training (NEETs).
7. Ireland should strive to be a leader on the **Corruption Index** indicator
8. Increasing ODA as % of GNI would be a strong sign of our commitment on **partnership for the goals**.
9. Ireland has an excellent opportunity to **partner with developing countries** towards supporting their attaining of the SDGs
10. There is a need to **gather evidence and track progress** – on policies that drive outcomes in order to implement the 2030 Agenda
11. It is critically important that Government **integrate all 17 SDGs into all policy-making processes** - give them the priority that they require if they are to be achieved by Ireland
12. There is an ongoing need to **gather evidence** especially on environmental indicators – this is one of the most urgent issues as many indicators lack the necessary data.
13. There is also an urgent need to focus on securing **policy coherence** – several aspects of current Government policy are at odds with the SDGs e.g.
  - a. generating economic growth by increasing agricultural production
  - b. Prioritising job-creation via transnationals while Ireland's infrastructure (e.g. housing, public transport, rural broadband) and social services (health, education, older people) are below SDG requirements
14. Develop **Satellite National Accounts** – GDP is not appropriate for 21<sup>st</sup> century.
15. **Badge all policy initiatives** with the relevant SDG(s)

### How does Ireland perform in comparison with the EU 15 on each of the SDGs?

Agenda 2030 sets ambitious targets across the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Although we fully recognise that all goals are interdependent and interconnected, we think there is value in attempting to understand how countries are doing on the three aspects of progress. For the purposes of this report we cluster the goals by these three dimensions: economic, social and environment and compile the results into the composite SDG index.

In this section we outline in detail how Ireland performs on each of the three dimensions starting with the environment SDG index, followed by the society SDG index and finally the economic SDG index.

### The Environment SDG Index

Country scores and rankings for the Environment Index are shown in Table 5. Ireland's score puts it in 13<sup>th</sup> place on this dimension. This is the lowest score Ireland has overall and shows no improvement from the 2018 Sustainable Progress Index. The Environment Index consists of SDGs 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 7 (Affordable and clean energy), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water) and 15 (Life on land).

Table 5: The Environment SDG Index Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	65.42	1
Austria	59.82	2
Finland	56.53	3
Denmark	54.91	4
Germany	51.99	5
United Kingdom	51.78	6
Netherlands	50.17	7
Portugal	48.49	8
Spain	46.69	9
Belgium	45.42	10
France	44.74	11
Italy	44.50	12
Ireland	43.98	13
Greece	43.44	14
Luxembourg	38.15	15

#### SDG 6 'Clean Water and Sanitation'

SDG 6 calls for universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. It aims at improving water quality, water use efficiency and sustainable supply. Indicators for access to improved drinking water and improved sanitation show further development is required on this goal. We also include a measure of freshwater withdrawal as % total renewable water resources and Ireland scores well on this indicator. Ireland's overall rank on this SDG is 5.

**SDG 6: Rank = 5**



### ***SDG 7 'Affordable and Clean Energy'***

SDG 7 emphasises improving energy efficiency, access to modern energy services and increasing the share of renewable energy.

Final energy consumption in household per capita has fallen since 2000 but it remains just above the EU average (2016 data, Eurostat). Ireland's share of renewable energy is poor relative to our EU peers. Ireland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy fuels combustion/electricity output (MtCO<sub>2</sub>/TW) are one of the highest in the sample, ranked 11<sup>th</sup>. The overall score on this SDG is 12, and we argue this goal poses significant challenges for Ireland.

**SDG 7: Rank = 12**



### ***SDG 11 'Sustainable cities and communities'***

SDG 11 focuses on quality of life in cities and communities, sustainable transport and adverse environmental impacts. It aims to make cities safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, investing in infrastructure, and improving planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

Some of the official indicators for this goal are more relevant to developing countries. We use 3 indicators to reflect this goal. Ireland scores well (3<sup>rd</sup> place) on the air pollution in urban areas indicator; Sweden and Finland have the highest scores. We use updated data on the access to transport indicator and include a measure of rent over-burden. Taken together, Ireland's score gives it a rank of 8 for quality of life in our cities and communities.

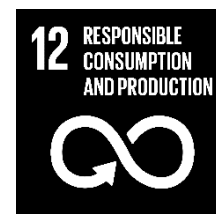
**SDG 11: Rank = 8**



### ***SDG 12 'Responsible consumption and production'***

SDG 12 calls for sustainable consumption and production by the adoption of sustainable practices and procedures for business and an increase in environmentally friendly activity by consumers. Ireland's performance on this SDG is poor, based on the indicators used here. More waste is generated than the EU average (kg per capita), the percentage of waste water not treated is the lowest of the EU15 (based on 2016 data) and the recycling rate is the lowest among the EU15. Significant improvement is required if Ireland is to be on track to achieve this goal in the timescale proposed by Agenda 2030.

**SDG 12: Rank = 14**



### ***SDG 13 'Climate Action'***

Implementing the commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and operationalizing the Green Climate Fund are the key aims of this SDG. Problems with data availability, for example, reliable and comprehensive measures of mitigation, impacts and initiatives, make this one of the SDGs that international agencies still find problematic when attempting to determine important trends. A key indicator used by Eurostat is GHG emissions. Ireland witnessed an increase in its GHG emissions from 1990 to 2001 (see Figure A2 in Appendix E) and although these emissions have since fallen, they remain well above EU average. Given data limitations, our SDG measure here



focuses on just 2 indicators: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita indicator, and the effective carbon tax rate. Ireland is ranked 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SDG 13 Rank = 11**

### ***SDG 14 'Life below Water'***

The conservation of the oceans by safeguarding and ensuring their sustainable use is the aim of SDG 14. Lack of data in the past has meant it was difficult to estimate how each country is contributing to ocean health. More recently, different indicators have been used to capture sustainable fishery and healthy oceans. Examples include protected marine sites, fish stocks, extent of fish trawling, estimates of ocean health, including ocean acidity, etc. But complete data remains a problem for accurately estimating achievement on this SDG for most countries.



We use 5 indicators<sup>1</sup> based on data from the Ocean Health Index and Birdlife International/IUCN to capture the SDG's theme<sup>2</sup>. The data suggests Ireland is performing poorly in meeting its sustainable objectives in this area. Ireland is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of 13 countries<sup>3</sup>.

**SDG 14 Rank = 9 (out of 13)**

### ***SDG 15 'Life on land'***

SDG 15 seeks to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, inland water and mountain ecosystems. We settle on five indicators to mirror this goal, drawing on data from BirdLife International (2018) which estimates the share of protected terrestrial areas and freshwater areas. Both of these indicators illustrate Ireland is doing well and is ranked among the top two for both. The share of land dedicated for forestry use, at just under 11%, is well below the EU average. The extent of artificial land coverage per capita (used by Eurostat to reflect land degradation per capita) also shows Ireland ranked low relative to our EU peers. The overall rank on this SDG is 8.



**SDG 15: Rank = 8**

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<sup>1</sup> These indicators were not used in previous reports for estimating this SDG. Our choice of indicators is influenced by ensuring complete coverage for all 13 countries. The EU have noted problems with this SDG in particular, and were unable to estimate trends in SDG progress in their report (Eurostat, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Both Austria and Luxembourg are landlocked – hence no data for this goal.

## The Society SDG Index

The Society Index score and country ranking are presented in Table 4. Ireland is ranked in 10<sup>th</sup> place. The Society Index consists of scores for SDGs 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 3 (Good health and wellbeing), 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

Table 4: The Society SDG Index – Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	74.20	1
Denmark	73.66	2
Finland	66.23	3
Netherlands	59.83	4
Austria	53.29	5
France	52.21	6
Germany	52.15	7
Belgium	50.93	8
United Kingdom	50.83	9
Ireland	49.04	10
Luxembourg	48.21	11
Italy	35.54	12
Spain	33.77	13
Portugal	31.85	14
Greece	19.67	15

### SDG 1 'No poverty'

SDG 1 pleads for an end to poverty in all its manifestations. According to Eurostat, Ireland had 15.6% of its population at risk of income poverty after social transfers in 2017, just below the EU average of 16.9%. As the focus of our analysis is the EU15 countries (with broadly similar levels of development), we exclude some of the less relevant UN indicators variables that capture extreme poverty (such as the poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day, % population). One indicator is used to reflect SDG1: poverty is measured as the share of the population whose incomes fall below half the median disposable income for the entire population after taxes and transfers. On this measure,





using the latest available data, Ireland is ranked 7<sup>th</sup>. Denmark and Finland score the highest on this SDG.

**SDG 1: Rank = 7**

### ***SDG 2 'No hunger'***

SDG 2 is concerned with food security and the eradication of hunger. Many of the official indicators under this goal are more applicable to developing countries. Food security, in terms of sufficiency and supply, may not be considered a major concern for the EU15 countries, but malnutrition problems are evident. Consumption patterns and lifestyles have changed in the EU, including in Ireland, and obesity is on the rise with implications for people's quality of life and resourcing the health care system. SDG2 is also concerned with ensuring long-term productivity and the sustainability of agriculture. We use 5 indicators to capture the theme of SDG 2: obesity rates capture the malnutrition aspect; and cereal yield efficiency, ammonia emission from agricultural land, gross nutrient balance of land, and the extent of organic farming reflect the sustainable agricultural aspect.

Obesity in Ireland is the one of the highest among the EU15, second only to the UK. Over 25% of the population are categorised as obese. Ireland's organic farming share of the total utilised agricultural area (UAA) is well below the EU average at just under 1.7%; it scores lowest of the EU15 on this indicator. Ireland performs well compared to other countries on the cereal yield indicator, although less well on ammonia emissions and nutrient balance of agricultural land. The overall SDG score gives Ireland a score of 10 of 15 countries.

**SDG 2: Rank = 10**



### ***SDG 3 'Good health and wellbeing'***

Improving healthy lives and promoting wellbeing at all stages of life is the focus of SDG 3. As well as being important to the individual in terms of improving their quality of lives, good health is also valuable for social and economic growth. 9 indicators are used to reflect this goal, including indicators for alcohol and smoking consumption, deaths from chronic diseases, and subjective wellbeing. Other indicators that are more relevant to the developing countries are excluded.

Ireland's score puts it in the middle of the ranking for this SDG. Sweden and Netherlands perform the best on health and wellbeing with Portugal and Greece at the bottom of the ranking.

**SDG 3: Rank = 9**



### ***SDG 4 'Quality education'***

SDG 4 advocates inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. Education is seen as key in meeting other SDGs; it aims at reducing poverty, inequality, gender inequality and contributes to growth, employment, productivity, innovation, competitiveness and healthier lifestyles (Eurostat, 2017:89).

Ireland performs well on the indicator representing 3<sup>rd</sup> level tertiary qualifications in the population. It ranks best of the EU15 on the early leavers from education indicator. The PISA score is also impressive - Ireland is ranked second to Finland and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> for expected years of schooling. We

include a new indicator – the expected employment rate of graduates and Ireland is mid-way in the ranking on this indicator, based on Eurostat data. The overall score puts Ireland at the top of the list of countries for this SDG, second only to the UK<sup>4</sup>.

### SDG 4: Rank = 2

#### *SDG 5 'Gender equality'*

SDG 5 aims at ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls. It calls for equal rights, recognition and equal opportunities of leadership at all levels of political and economic decision making. We use 5 indicators in our construction of SDG 5.



Ireland scores at the top end for the indicator that captures female education as a percentage of male education. Indicators for both the share of women in national parliament and in senior management roles show Ireland well below the EU average and in the bottom 3 countries for both indicators. The female participation rate is also lower than the best performing countries. Ireland is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> on the gender pay gap indicator, while Luxembourg and Belgium score highest. Overall, Ireland is ranked 10 on this SDG indicating there is scope for improvement. Sweden, Denmark and Finland are the highest ranked countries.

### SDG 5: Rank = 10

#### *SDG 10 'Reduced inequalities'*

SDG 10 aims at reducing disparities in terms of income, sex, age, disability, race, class, ethnicity, and religion.

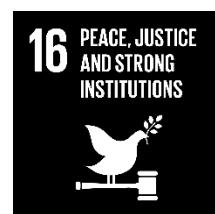
We use four indicators to capture the theme of this goal. The Palma Index, (the ratio of the richest 10% of the population's share of gross national income divided by the poorest 40%'s share) shows Ireland is ranked 9<sup>th</sup>. While the absolute debt level has declined over the years, it remains high. Ireland is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> on this indicator. The Netherlands and Denmark are the worst performing countries for household debt. Ireland's performance on the social justice indicator is poor at rank 11 while the Scandinavian countries have the highest scores. Overall, Ireland's rank of 11 shows there is a need for greater progress on this SDG.



### SDG 10: Rank = 11

#### *SDG 16 'Peace, justice and strong institutions'*

SDG 16 calls for peaceful and inclusive societies based on human rights, protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance. The construction of this SDG uses different indicators to earlier reports in an attempt to better reflect the theme of the goal. For example, we include a measure of confidence in the judicial system (Eurostat)<sup>5</sup>. We retain the measure of corruption and measures of homicides, crime, and feeling safe walking home. Ireland's corruption score ranks it in 10<sup>th</sup> place. Denmark, Finland and Sweden are the top 3 ranked countries with Italy, and Greece at the bottom.



<sup>4</sup> Of course, the NEET rate is also important but is considered under SDG 8, as per the UN Official Indicator List.

<sup>5</sup> We decide not to include a similar measure that captures population perceptions of the EU institutions as all countries are in the EU and higher scores on this indicator may not actually reflect better country performance.

The data indicate Ireland is a relatively safe society with a low number of deaths due to homicide or assault, and the perceived occurrence of crime, violence and vandalism. Overall, Ireland's rank of 4 suggests Ireland is doing relatively well on this SDG.

**SDG 16: Rank = 4**

### ***SDG 17 'Partnership for the goals'***

Goal 17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda, by bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors. Despite advances in certain areas, more needs to be done to accelerate progress.



Availability of published data for all EU countries is limited for this SDG. The % of GNI devoted to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is the exception and the latest data suggest that Ireland's contribution of 0.3 is well below the EU average. Ireland is ranked 11th on this indicator in 2017. Sweden, Luxembourg, and Denmark top with Portugal and Greece at the bottom. In Budget 2019 the Irish Government made a substantial move towards increasing its ODA. However, that increase will not yet register on these numbers. As a member state of the EU, Ireland has a commitment to dedicate 0.7 % of GNI to official development assistance by 2030. Clearly, much needs to be done to accelerate progress on this SDG.

**SDG 17: Rank = 11**

## The Economy SDG Index

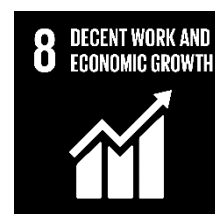
Table 3 shows the overall Economy Score for Ireland, which includes SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure). Ireland ranks 11<sup>th</sup> relative to its EU peers on this dimension.

Table 3: The Economy SDG Index - Ranking by Country		
Country	Index Score	Country Rank
Sweden	81.54	1
Denmark	79.25	2
Netherlands	72.74	3
Finland	65.11	4
Austria	64.53	5
Germany	63.51	6
Luxembourg	61.20	7
Belgium	57.14	8
United Kingdom	46.49	9
France	45.26	10
Ireland	40.16	11
Portugal	29.10	12
Italy	22.19	13
Spain	17.28	14
Greece	8.24	15

### SDG 8 'Decent work and economic growth'

SDG 8 appeals for providing opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all while reducing child labour, and human trafficking by promoting labour rights and secure working conditions.

4 indicators are used to compute this SDG. Real GDP per capita in Ireland is high relative to the other EU15 countries, second only to Luxembourg. Ireland also had the highest rate of growth in GDP. Ireland's unemployment rate shows good improvement, however, the NEET Rate (youths not in employment, education or training) ranks Ireland 11<sup>th</sup> on this indicator.



We include the incidence of low pay in SDG8 to capture the idea of quality work in the economy, although there is yet no agreed measure of decent work developed for use in the SDGs. With approx. 22.5% of employees in Ireland considered low-paid, Ireland scores at the bottom for this indicator. The overall rank for Ireland on SDG 8 is 9.

**SDG 8: Rank = 9**

### ***SDG 9 'Industry, innovation and infrastructure'***

Enhancing innovation, technological progress and entrepreneurship are the aims of SDG 9. In doing so, the goal is to promote increased access to financial services and information and communication technologies.



Expenditure on R&D (% of GDP) is the lowest in Ireland relative to the EU15, based on the latest data. Sweden, Austria, Denmark and Germany score highest and all have expenditure greater than 3% of GDP. Ireland's spend was 1.05%, moving further away from Europe 2020 target of spending 3 % of GDP on R&D by 2020. Ireland's share of R&D researchers, both as % of population and per 1000 workers employed has increased over the years, as had the extent of patents (per million) although we are below the EU average on this indicator. Internet use (% of population) is also less than the best performing countries. Ireland's overall score ranks Ireland 11 out of the 15. There is therefore scope for improvement on this SDG.

**SDG 9: Rank = 11**

## Data Selection for the Sustainable Progress Index

Data collection for the analysis was far-ranging. As in our earlier reports, the starting point for data selection is the UN Indicator Set (2017) and we attempt to align our indicator set as closely as possible with this list.

We employ some simple rules to guide our choice of data.

- Relevance and applicability: the data must be directly related, similar, or relevant to monitoring the SDG. For some SDGs, indicators are chosen because they are more applicable to EU policies and initiatives (Eurostat, 2017).
- Quality: to ensure the best measures are used to capture the SDG, we only use official published data from international sources such as OECD, WHO, UN, etc. and non-governmental organisations such as Gallup and Transparency International.
- Coverage: data must be available for all 15 countries.
- Most recent available: all data must refer to the most recent year available.

The above criteria imply that for some SDGs, we replace the official indicators (e.g. prevalence of undernourishment, prevalence of stunting, incidence of extreme poverty), with indicators that better reflect high income countries in the EU. For example, the prevalence of obesity – a major risk factor for a number of chronic diseases - is increasingly becoming a problem in high-income countries (and also some low-middle income countries). Other indicators, although not official UN indicators, are included to capture the theme of a particular SDG.

## THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

